



AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

Population: Question on Ancestry (P-12)

FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL USES OF DATA ABOUT ANCESTRY

- The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission uses these data to determine representation within an employment category.
- The Department of Health and Human Services uses these data to assess racial and ethnic diversity of Developmental Disabilities Councils and consumer advisory committees of the University Centers for Developmental Disabilities.
- Business owners use these data to pinpoint areas of a city for locating new restaurants specializing in particular types of ethnic foods.
- State and local governments, faith-based and other non-profit organizations, and businesses use these data to plan, budget, and pay benefits.

QUESTION AS IT APPEARS IN THE QUESTIONNAIRE

12 What is this person's ancestry or ethnic origin?

(For example: Italian, Jamaican, African Am., Cambodian, Cape Verdean, Norwegian, Dominican, French Canadian, Haitian, Korean, Lebanese, Polish, Nigerian, Mexican, Taiwanese, Ukrainian, and so on.)

EXAMPLES OF LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR DATA ABOUT ANCESTRY

- Immigration Nationality Act
- Indian Health Care Improvement Act
- Civil Rights Act of 1964

[<www.census.gov/acs/www>](http://www.census.gov/acs/www)

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Helping You Make Informed Decisions



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HISTORY OF THE ANCESTRY QUESTION

- The question on ancestry was first asked in 1980.
- The question also was asked on the Census 2000 long-form questionnaire.

WHAT IS THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY?

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a nationwide survey that collects socioeconomic and housing information and is the planned replacement for the long form in the 2010 Census.

The U.S. Census Bureau plans to conduct the ACS in every county, American Indian and Alaska Native Area, Hawaiian Home Land, and in Puerto Rico, once it is fully implemented, pending Congressional funding. The ACS has been tested across the country since 1996.

WHY WE ASK IT THIS WAY

This question asks the ancestry of all people, no matter how many generations they have been in this country. Respondents are asked to write in the name of an ancestry group. For individuals who think of themselves as having more than one origin, they are able to write in two ancestries, e.g., German-Irish.

This self-identification approach recognizes that strong ethnic identity is not limited to just first- and second-generation immigrants.

HOW CAN I SEE THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY?

The information collected from these tests is published on the Census Bureau's Web site at:

<www.census.gov/acs/www>

and American FactFinder at:

<<http://factfinder.census.gov>>

For more information call, e-mail, or visit our Web site:

1-888-456-7215

<cmo.acs@census.gov>

<<http://www.census.gov/acs/www>>

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